

# Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For Year ending December 31st, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1925, ending December 31st, which includes, by order of the Ministry of Health, a survey for the years 1921—1925.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	3,548
Population ... ..	4,326
No. of Inhabited Houses, 1921 ...	1,052
No. of Families or Separate Occupiers ...	1,056
Rateable Value ... ..	£25,043
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£76

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Births — Legitimate ...	66	35	31
Illegitimate ...	4	3	1
Birth Rate, 15.25.			
Deaths ... ..	56	31	25
Death Rate, 12.94.			

Number of women dying in consequence of child birth—From sepsis, nil; other causes, nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate 6; Illegitimate 1.

Under 1 week, 2; 1—4 weeks (inc.), 0; 1—6 months, 3; 6—12 months, 1; total, 6.

Deaths from Measles, none.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, 1.

Deaths from Diarrhœa, none.

Antidiphtheritic serum has been supplied to any doctors who have asked for it.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Cases Notified	Deaths	Admitted Hospital.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	4	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	24	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica... ..	1	1	1

### TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary. M.	Nonpul. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Nonpul. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Nonpul. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Nonpul. F.
To 1 year ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
15—20 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ... ..	—	5	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—45 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Over ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	5	0	1	1	5	0	—

Total New Cases 8. Deaths 6.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 Case, No death.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—A Sanatorium was opened in 1914 for 20 patients—10 male and 10 female—in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital, one mile west of the town. A ward of six beds, and open-air shelters for four patients of each sex was provided, together with administration block, dining room, and recreation room. This Hospital was provided by the County Council, and has always been full. Patients were recommended for admission by the T. Officers from various parts of the county.

A part-time M.O. was appointed, and a County T.O. visited regularly.

This place was closed in 1925, on the opening of Quantock Lodge Sanatorium.

The buildings have been empty since, but have been used by me as an overflow for infectious cases for a time.

**FEVER HOSPITAL.**—This has room for about 20 patients, with steam disinfecter attached, and is used by the Urban and Rural Districts.

The bedding clothes, etc., of patients removed to the Fever Hospital is now disinfected and delivered free of charge.

Similar disinfection can be carried out for others, at almost anytime. Application to be made to the Matron. Tel. 15.

**AMBULANCE.**—Infectious cases are removed in a motor ambulance trailer, or by a hired motor ambulance.

A motor ambulance belonging to the Hospital would be an advantage.

**NON-INFECTIOUS CASES.**—A hand ambulance is available in the town for accidents, etc.

### MATERNITY CENTRE AND CHILD WELFARE.

This was started in 1918, under the chairmanship of Miss Berryman. Meetings are held fortnightly. The average attendance for 1923-24 has been 40 mothers and 60 children.

The Medical Officer attends each month, and at other times if necessary. The meetings are held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom.

The District Nurse attends and weighs and examines all babies. Instruction in baby clothes and other things is given. Short lectures by the Medical Officer and others, on subjects of special interest to mothers, are also given.

The Centre is financed by the Urban Council, with a grant from the Ministry of Health. The Guardians also give a grant.

The management is in the hands of the Chairman and a Committee, with Mrs. Evans as Superintendant. Excellent work has been done, and much help to mothers has been given. It has been most successful from the start, and the Chairman and Committee are much to be congratulated.

The District Nurse visits expectant mothers, and children under five, helping and advising where necessary. They also attend the Maternity Centre meetings each fortnight, and consult the Doctor then if necessary.

Health Visitors visit mothers after the confinement.

Orthopaedic treatment centres have lately been formed by the County Health Department, and should prove very useful in congenital and chronic conditions, when supervision for some years is necessary.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum only occurred during the year. A slight case, and vision is unimpaired.

**TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.**—Provided by the County Council, it is open each Wednesday, 10—12. A County Council Tubercular Medical Officer attends for consultation and treatment.

Patients attend from any near-by locality.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.**—Medical Officer part time; a Sanitary Inspector whole time with that of Surveyor. Contributions to salary under Public Health Acts in both cases.

### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is arranged for by the Shepton Mallet Nursing Association; one of the largest in the County. Four qualified Nurses are on the staff, of whom two live in the town. Two nurse in the town and two nurse in outside districts.

Of the Town Nurses, one is a Mid-wife.

The Nursing Association was started in 1893, and has done excellent work ever since.

The upkeep is maintained by subscriptions on club benefit lines—Midwifery fees—a grant from the County Council for infant visiting and school nursing, the County Nursing Association, and by subscriptions beyond the ordinary scale of fees.

No other Midwives practice in the district.

No special provision is made for nursing infectious cases.

These are mostly removed to the Fever Hospital.



# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious disease cases have been few during the last five years. There have been no epidemics. Nearly all cases are removed to the Fever Hospital, and the average number of patients in this Hospital for the last five years, is 4.5.

During 1925 pneumonia has been prevalent, accounting for 24 cases out of a total of 29 infectious diseases notified.

There were 2 deaths.

The Shick and Dick tests have not been used.

For diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively the examination and reports on bacteriological specimens is made by the pathologist attached to the Health Office at Weston-super-Mare. No charge is made. These reports are of the utmost value, and the facilities arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health are much appreciated.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Statutes made applicable by adoption or Special Order.

Baths and Wash Houses Acts, adopted April 17th, 1900.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention Act), 1890, adopted April 5th, 1893.

Parts II and III. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted April 5th, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,

Part II. Sections 15 to 25 and 27 to 33.

Part III. The Whole.

Part IV. Sections 52 to 60, 62 to 66, 68.

Part V. The Whole.

Part X. Sections 92 to 95.

NOTE.—Sections 25, 27, 35, 38, 59, 75, are subject to certain conditions and adaptations as appearing in the order declaring the above to be in force.

Order of Local Government Board, dated February 27th, 1909.

Part VII. Sections 79, 81.

Part VIII. Sections 88, 90.

Part IX. The Whole.

Order of Home Office, dated February 25th, 1909.

Part I of the Act in force without an order being necessary.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Provision of Nursing assistance under Section 133 of Public Health Act, 1895. Sanction of Local Government Board dated July 3rd, 1914.

Owing to Mr. Duncan Brown's appointment as Sanitary Inspector for the Urban District of Shepton Mallet not being made until March 31st, 1925, and being a stranger to this district, he has been somewhat handicapped, and his report, therefore, does not comprise more than approximately six months work.

## MILK SUPPLY.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.  
Number of Distributors on the Register ... 12  
Number of Producers on the Register ... 32

One Licence has been granted during the year for distribution of "Certified Milk."

Generally, the Cowstalls and Dairies have been kept clean, and in good condition.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 6 in the District. These have been kept in a satisfactory condition, and lime-washed at required intervals.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 3 Licensed and 3 Registered in the District. These are inspected weekly, and the carcasses of all slaughtered animals passed before being exposed for sale. It is seldom any disease is found.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924, etc.

## PARTICULARS FOR YEAR 1925.

1.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES. — Registered 3, Licensed 3, Total 6.

Length of time for which the licenses are granted, 12 months.

## Slaughter House Occupiers—

S. Parker, butcher, Shepton Mallet Registered  
E. J. Orledge, butcher, Shepton Mallet, ..  
E. J. Taylor, butcher, Shepton Mallet ..  
Britten Bros., butchers, Shepton Mallet, licensed.  
J. D. Browne, butcher, Shepton Mallet, ..  
A. E. Edwards, West Country Bacon  
Curing Co., Shepton Mallet ..

2.—Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations  
(a) Person appointed to receive these notices, D. Brown, Sanitary Inspector; (b) Number of Slaughter House occupiers exclusive of emergency slaughtering who have given notice of slaughtering at a fixed time, 4; ditto who have not given such a notice but give a notice of each time of slaughter, 2. Number of notices given under Section 9, 2.

4.—Particulars of meat condemned (whether seized or surrendered) during 1925:—

Animal and parts condemned	During 1st half-year	During 2nd half-year	Total for the year
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### Pigs.

Whole carcase	One	None	One
Head	Two	Three	Five
Internal organs alone	None	None	

### Oxen and Calves.

Whole carcase	None	None	
Fore or hind Qrs. only	None	None	
Head	None	None	
Internal organs alone	None	None	

### Sheep.

Whole carcase	None	None	
Organs alone	1 liver	1 liver	Two

### Other animals.

Whole carcase	None	None	
Organs alone	None	None	
Tinned Meats	1 Tin	5 Tins	Six

## DISINFECTION.

14 houses were disinfected after the removal patients suffering from infectious disease.

SEWERAGE.—The effluent from the Sewage Farm has been very satisfactory during the year, and no trouble has arisen in connection with the Sewers within the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Town is supplied with an abundant supply, from the Mendip Hills. Samples are sent for analysis at regular intervals. On one occasion during the year slight contamination was found in one sample. The cause of this was located, and the spring cut out. The analysis of subsequent samples have been quite satisfactory.

## GENERALLY.

Defective condition of Roofs	...	...	2
Tinned Foods Condemned	...	...	6
Defective Gullies	...	...	2
Choked Drains	...	...	4
New W.C.'s erected in place of 3 condemned	...	...	3
Insanitary W.C.'s	...	...	
Workshop without proper sanitary accommodation	...	...	1
Animals kept in such a state as to be nuisance	...	...	2
Accumulations of Manure	...	...	3
Dangerous Roof to Disused Building	...	...	1
Dangerous Walls	...	...	2
Number of Houses built during year	...	...	1
Old Houses repaired and put in a Sanitary condition	...	...	6
Number of Houses systematically inspected under 1910 Regulations during the year	...	...	31
Connections to public sewer	...	...	1
Premises Disinfected after Infectious and other diseases	...	...	14
Number of Dwelling Houses inspected during the year	...	...	44
Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects, and recorded	...	...	18
Number found not fit	...	...	4
Number rendered fit	...	...	4

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and work places are inspected systematically, and any defects found are remedied.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

A. H. FINCH,  
Medical Officer of Health.